

# Please Help Prevent Foreign Fruit Fly Outbreaks

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and your State's department of agriculture need your help in preventing and minimizing fruit fly outbreaks. Foreign fruit flies pose a significant risk to the United States' agricultural and environmental resources. Besides attacking oranges and grapefruits commonly grown in backyards and orchards, fruit flies attack many different varieties of fruits, nuts, and vegetables.



Adult Mediterranean fruit fly



Adult Mexican fruit fly

## Trapping for Fruit Flies

While you were away, an authorized government official stopped by to request permission to place on your property a trap designed to attract and capture fruit flies. These traps are placed to detect fruit flies before their populations can become established. Early detection provides the best means of preventing large fruit fly outbreaks that could devastate the U.S. ecology, economy, and agriculture. And discovering outbreaks when they are small allows for control of the pest with minimal impact on affected homeowners and the environment.

Because we hope you will team up with us to protect the United States from these destructive pests, we placed the trap in your absence. Please **do not handle this trap**. It will be monitored weekly. If you disapprove of the trap's placement on your property, contact the office listed in the box on the back of this doorhanger to have it removed.



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Program Aid No. 1778  
Issued July 2004 • Reprinted June 2016

## Trap Categories

Varying in size and shape, as well as the type of lure used, different traps target a wide range of fruit flies. Inspectors may have placed any of the following trap types on your property:

1. The Jackson trap is white and triangular. A small amount of bait is applied to a wick or placed in a little basket inside the trap body. Jackson traps contain a sticky insert to capture fruit flies, and some of these traps have a small amount of pesticide mixed with the bait.
2. The McPhail trap is a glass or plastic, bell-shaped container that employs either a food-based or synthetic attractant and water to lure and trap fruit flies.
3. The yellow panel trap is a rectangular cardboard trap coated on both sides with a mixture of a sticky substance and a pheromone (sex attractant) bait.
4. The multilure trap is a clear and yellow plastic device that contains several different kinds of lures to maximize trap yields.



The Jackson trap



The McPhail trap



The yellow panel trap



The multilure trap

## Additional Information

If you would like additional information about our fruit fly trapping program or steps you can take to help prevent or minimize the impact of fruit fly outbreaks, please contact us at the office listed below.

*Photo credits:* The image of the multilure trap was taken by USDA-Agricultural Research Service photographer Peggy Greb. The image of the Mexican fruit fly was shot by APHIS photographer R. Anson Eaglin. The remaining pictures are APHIS file photos.